

8. Year 11 Subjects 2011 (Humanities)

VCE History: 20th Century History Units 1&2

The study of History aims to engender a love of an interest in that past, in order for students to understand our heritage and to identify forces that have helped shape our present world. The past makes a fascinating curriculum, and understanding it helps us to understand some of the issues we face in our own time and place. A wide variety of primary and secondary sources are analysed in order to develop skills in fact-finding, analysis and synthesis. Students are also encouraged to work in individual and group settings in their research and presentation.

In these VCE History units students learn not only about what happened in the past, but also about how these events have been represented, both at the time they occurred and by later historians. Thus the study of visual, oral and written records is central to all four courses.

- There are no prerequisites for entry to Units 1, 2 and 3. Unit 3 and 4 must be taken as a sequence.

The following units of History will be offered at Alphington Grammar School:

Unit 1: Twentieth Century History (1900 - 45)

Areas Of Study:

- *Crisis and Conflict (The Legacies of World War One)*: The causes and consequences of WW1 will be examined in detail, as a prelude to the rise of both Communism in Russia and Fascism in Germany. This area of study permeates the other two areas, and as such is present throughout this course.
- *Social Life (The Roaring Twenties & the Great Depression)*: Daily life, culture and social values all underwent profound change as a result of WW1. Life in Australia, Germany and the United States reflected these changes to varying degrees, and the people of these nations reacted differently to the challenges that arose during the 1920s, particularly in the Great Depression.
- *Cultural Expression (The Jazz Age)*: "The Jazz Age" does not merely refer to music; it refers to a carefree way of life that was emerging during the 1920s and became a coping mechanism during the 1930s. Its influence may be found in music, film, art, fashion and literature of the period. Fritz Lang's 1927 film *Metropolis* will be examined in detail.

Assessment:

There are three outcomes for this unit:

- Outcome 1 - Students should be able to analyse and explain the development of a political crisis and conflict in the period 1900 to 1945.
- Outcome 2 - Students should be able to analyse and discuss patterns of social life and the factors which influenced changes to social life in the first half of the twentieth century.
- Outcome 3 - Students should be able to analyse the relationship between the historical context and a cultural expression of the period from 1900 to 1945.

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VCE History: 20th Century History Units 1&2 (Cont...)

Unit 1: Twentieth Century History (1900 – 45 – Cont...)

Assessment Break-Down:

Assessment tasks for this unit will include some of the following:

- analytical exercises; annotated maps; short reports; essays; oral presentations; multimedia presentations; film reviews; biographical studies; tests; responses to literature.
- At least one of the assessment tasks must be presented in a written form and one must involve an analysis of visual evidence, preferably a film.
- There is an End-of-Semester Examination.

Unit 2: Twentieth Century History (since 1945)

Areas of Study:

- *Ideas and Political Power:* The end of World War II was a time of great optimism for many people; however, it did not last long. The main focus of this area will be the Cold War between the world's two greatest "Superpowers", the USA and USSR, which dominated world affairs right through to the 1980s. At the same time, the creation of the state of Israel raised tensions in the Middle East, tensions that continue to this day.
- *Movements of the People:* Movements of the people occur when a whole section of society concerns itself with certain views and wants to change the way others act and think. Movements such as the Civil Rights movements, anti-war movements, feminism and others challenged the way that individuals lived and the legitimacy of established authority. The Civil Rights and Feminist movements from the 1960s and 70s will be the primary focus for this area of study.
- *Issues for the Millennium:* The latter decades of the twentieth century ushered in monumental change for the international community. The collapse of communism, the globalisation of the economy, the AIDS epidemic and the growing use of terror as a form of warfare has changed the political and social landscape forever. This area of study will see students examine how the interplay between domestic, regional and international events influenced changes in social life for a community or group and the way in which these experiences have been represented. The main focus of study will centre on conflict in the Middle East.

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VCE History: 20th Century History Units 1&2 (Cont...)

Unit 2: Twentieth Century History (since 1945 – Cont...)

Assessment:

There are three outcomes for this unit:

- Outcome 1 - Students should be able to analyse and discuss how post-war societies used ideologies to legitimise their worldview and portray competing systems.
- Outcome 2 - Students should be able to evaluate the impact of a challenge(s) to established social, political and/or economic power during the second half of the twentieth century.
- Outcome 3 - Students should be able to analyse issues faced by communities arising from political, economic and/or technological change.

Assessment Break-Down:

Assessment tasks for this unit will include some of the following:

- analytical exercises; annotated maps; short reports; essays; oral presentations; multimedia presentations; film reviews; biographical studies; tests; responses to literature.
- At least one of the assessment tasks must be presented in a written form and one must involve an analysis of visual evidence, preferably a film.
- There is an end-of-Year Examination.